


How to Get into Medicine

We know medicine isn't easy to get into. Therefore, in this article we will provide an overview of the entire UK medical school application process.

Thinking about applying to Medicine? Get access to FREE resources (incl. UCAT & BMAT), events, guidance, mentoring and helpful articles at [medmentor.co.uk](https://www.medmentor.co.uk) 

Deciding on Medicine

Medicine is a uniquely challenging, yet rewarding career, which requires scientific acumen plus strong teamworking and communication skills. It's important to be armed with a good understanding of the application process, degree and subsequent training, in order to ensure that medicine is the right choice for you.

Most universities offer a 5-year degree for students with A Levels or the equivalent. There are also 6 year programmes for students who wish to take a year out of medicine to pursue an additional degree, as well as 4 year graduate entry medicine options.

Entry Requirements

Choosing the 'right' A-levels is crucial if you want to study medicine. Chemistry is usually essential, plus another science subject or maths. The combination of A Levels which will be accepted by the most medical schools is Chemistry + Biology + Physics or Maths.

Students should aim to receive predicted grades in these subjects of a minimum of AAA in Year 12. A fourth A Level is unlikely to increase your chances of receiving an offer.

The entry requirements of individual medical schools can be found through The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). UK and international students submit their applications to up to 4 medical schools through UCAS in October of year 13.

Admissions tests

All medical schools in the UK require you to take either the UCAT or BMAT and your score in these tests will affect your chances of receiving an offer. The exams test your scientific knowledge and skills in problem solving and critical thinking. Preparation is key, consider starting at least 1 month in advance of the test and revising for 1-2 hours per day.

Work experience

Work experience is a really important part of the medicine application process, to give you an insight into the realities of the profession and help you develop the communication skills needed to become a Doctor. Students should aim for a variety of experience, including short-term hospital and General Practice placements which could be undertaken in the summer holidays. As well as longer-term volunteering, for example at a hospice.

Medical schools have relaxed their requirements for clinical work experience in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In these circumstances, there are options such as virtual

work experience programmes and local volunteering including in vaccination centres. Our work experience section in the Superhub of Medmentor lists many more COVID-friendly work experience ideas.

The personal statement

The personal statement is your opportunity to express why you are interested in medicine, what you have learned about life as a doctor and how you are suited to the profession. It should be succinct and may require many drafts to perfect, you have a maximum of 4000 characters, or approximately 500 words (47 lines).

Your personal statement should be individual and avoid cliches, but you might consider the following structure:

- Introduction: Motivation for studying medicine
- Demonstrate your interest in medicine (A Levels, research projects)
- Work experience and volunteering
- Extra-curricular activities and achievements (explain how these skills make you a good candidate)
- Conclusion: summarise your suitability for medical school

Medical school interviews

Most medical schools hold either Multi-Mini Interviews (MMI) or panel interviews. Questions that you may be asked include:

- Why do you want to study medicine? (What makes you a good candidate)
- Why this medical school?
- What did your work experience teach you about medicine / about yourself?
- Give an example of when you worked in a team / led a team / demonstrated empathy?

You may also be questioned on ethical scenarios, where your ability to think critically and form a balanced argument is tested. As you can see, the scope of the interview can be quite broad, but there is an abundance of free resources to help you prepare (see our Interview section!).

We hope this brief overview has given you an insight into the steps involved in applying to medicine.

Visit [medmentor.co.uk](https://www.medmentor.co.uk) or contact us on Instagram to find out more!